



## **MEMORANDUM**

Note for ESK Admin Board meeting on 31 January 2008

### **European Schooling in Strasbourg**

One of the challenges facing us at Etoile Education this year will be the establishment of the Strasbourg European school, which as you all know we have lobbied for at European, national and local level for many years and we are closely following developments. We are pleased to report that there is a strong commitment by the French authorities to making the school as close to a Type 1 school as possible and to adhering, not only to the European school criteria but also to its spirit. Interest in the Strasbourg European school is very high and we have been inundated with requests for membership, information, advice, interviews, coffee-mornings etc.

We believe that there will be very little impact, or none at all, on our students currently attending the European School, Karlsruhe, as they do not correspond to the very few classes opening in Strasbourg in September 2008 (2 years kindergarten, year 1+2 Primary, year 1+2 Secondary). Also, it is not yet clear which mother tongue language options will be offered or what will be the level of recruitment of teachers, the European School, Karlsruhe remain a very attractive option. There may even be an increase of students on the bus due to the rumoured possible closure of the Strasbourg International school (a private school teaching only in English).

Etoile Education, as an association which comprises members who are interested in European schooling (either with their children already benefiting from it at the European School, Karlsruhe or those who wish their children to benefit from it, at the Strasbourg European school), wished it to be very clear as to the nature of our position and role in this project with regard to the French authorities: Are we a partner in the process? or Are we an external observer or commentator?

Etoile Education was invited to a very fruitful meeting at the Rectorat on the 8 January 2008, where in addition to Mr. COMBAZ, Deputy Secretary General of the Rectorat, whom we have met on several occasions, were also present Mr. BITEAU, Inspecteur d'académie in charge of the project, Mr. LADAIQUE, inspecteur d'académie dealing with recruitments, Mr. PETER, inspecteur d'académie dealing with schooling and Mme. LEROUX, representative of the City of Strasbourg.

Etoile Education was also invited to attend the information meeting held by the Rectorat, 29 January 2008 at the Inspection Academique, where there were over 250 parents and questions lasted over 2hrs and to accompany the official visit to the European School, Luxembourg, Friday 1 February 2008. These are significant steps towards better cooperation and we look forward to visiting Karlsruhe with the group in the near future.

What has become very clear, also to the Rectorat, is that the demand and expectations are very high and that the families in question, whilst understanding the "start-up" nature of the school, are not prepared for their children to be an "experiment" or to accept a "second rate" European school.

Etoile Education will be holding another information evening in Strasbourg mid March and will be sending its views on the progress of the Strasbourg European school to the next meeting of the Board of Governors. We recall and re-submit today our memo on this subject for their October 2007 meeting (see attached).

## **European School, Karlsruhe - Open Day on the 1 March 2008**

New members of Etoile Education are very keen to visit the European School, Karlsruhe and also to better understand the European educational system. Open day is an perfect opportunity, especially as it coincides with Project days. Etoile Education will be organising a bus leaving from Strasbourg at 8:45am. Parents have already started to request seats on the bus. Julia Marlier, Coordonnatrice opérationnelle Ecole Européenne de Strasbourg, expressed her wish to attend this Open Day as well as visit the school more formally.

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## **Category II fees**

Etoile Education is glad to note that the Board of Governors is finally seriously considering the situation of Category II fees and would like to remind them and this Admin Board of our position on this question. Please recall our memo of 29 June 2006 (see attached).

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## **Etats Généraux**

Etoile Education would like to congratulate the Central Staff Committee of the European Commission who organised, in co-operation with DG Admin, the **Roundtable on “The Future of the European Schools: The Way Ahead”**, Brussels, Friday, 7 December 2007. It was the first time ever that participants came from all the different schools and from all the different areas connected with the European schools: teachers, parents, old and current students, administrators, staff representatives, European institutions etc. and we thank the Commission for making this financially possible. We are waiting with interest to see how the proposals made at this meeting will be followed up and look forward to such a meeting being held next year.

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## **Sponsored Bike Ride / Bike Festival**

Following discussions with the Primary school, the **Sponsored Bike Ride / Bike Festival**, will take place this year on Saturday 7 June 2008. Particular emphasis on the Strasbourg-Karlsruhe link will be continued from last years event, wonderfully shown by our T-shirt logo and today even more symbolic in view of developments of European schooling in Strasbourg.

